

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated July 1, 2004. Claims 1-28 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-28 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 10, 13, and 15 have been amended and claims 3 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18-28 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1, 2, 4-16, and 18-28 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

**§102 and §103 Rejections**

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 13, 15-22, and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gunn (U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,752,278 and 5,590,420).

Claims 4, 10-12, 14, and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunn in view of Kubo et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,614,123).

Claims 3 and 17 are cancelled herein. Cancellation of claims 3 and 17 should not be construed as an agreement by the Applicant with the Examiner's rejections. Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecution of any or all of the rejected claims in one or more continuation applications.

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 1, 9, 10, 13, and 15) are patentable over Gunn and Kubo et al.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a low friction fiber. The claims recite that the low friction fiber comprises a polymeric component and a low friction component. Each of the claims further recites that the low friction "includes at least an ultrahigh molecular weight silicon."

Neither Gunn nor Kubo discloses using a low friction component that includes a ultrahigh molecular weight silicon.

Since neither Gunn nor Kubo discloses using a low friction component that includes a ultrahigh molecular weight silicon, Applicant submits that claims 1, 9, 10, 13, and 15 are patentable over Gunn and Kubo, taken alone or in combination, on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicant submits that claims 2, 4-8, 11, 12, 14, 16, and 18-28 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claims 1, 9, 10, 13, and 15.

Applicant submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective references providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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